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U.S. Nears Viet Nam Decision

Johnson to See Hill Leaders of Both Parties

Speech Expected From President On Troop Buildup

By GARNETT D. HORNER
Star Staff Writer

President Johnson prepared today for early consultation with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders about enlarging the United States role in the war against Communist aggression in South Viet Nam.

White House Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers said the President planned to consult the congressional leaders on a bipartisan basis today or tomorrow before making final decisions on new U.S. moves.

In addition, Democratic congressional leaders were at the White House this morning for their regular weekly breakfast session with the President.

The President was getting close to decisions on proposals for a big buildup of U.S. combat forces in South Viet Nam that is generally expected to result in calling up some reserves and increasing draft quotas.

Intensive Review

Since Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara brought back from South Viet Nam last Wednesday evidence of need for more American troops and materiel to combat increasing Communist aggression, the President and his advisers have been engaged in an intensive review of all aspects of the situation.

Diplomatic and economic as well as military moves are under consideration.

Arthur J. Goldberg, new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, joined in a three-hour meeting with the President and top military, diplomatic and intelligence officials yesterday afternoon.

Moyers said the conferees discussed the "inaugural" at the United Nation for Goldberg, who took the oath of office for his new job in a White House ceremony earlier yesterday after formally submitting his resignation as an associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Various diplomatic initiatives that the United States has taken in past months in unsuccessful efforts to induce the Communist regime in North Viet Nam to stop its aggression and talk peace were reviewed and analyzed during the session, Moyers reported.

Speech Discussed

He said there also was considerable discussion of the President's speech to the United Nations 20th anniversary session in San Francisco last month when he called on U.N. members to use all their influence, individually and collectively, to try to bring the aggressors to the peace table. He said this discussion was in relation to Goldberg taking up his assignment.

Besides McNamara and Goldberg, those meeting with the President yesterday included Secretary of State Dean Rusk; Under-Secretary of State George Ball; Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Henry Cabot Lodge, ambassador-designate to South Viet Nam; Vice President Hubert Humphrey; McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the President for national security

affairs; Adm. William P. R. born, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Richard Helms, deputy CIA director; Clark Clifford, local lawyer and member the President's advisory board on foreign intelligence, and members of the White House staff.

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